



## Be Community Friendly!™ - Children's Day USA™

Summer Hansen, Director/Founder

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Angela Reynolds  
Environment Officer  
Dept. of Planning and Building: Sports Park DEIR  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd. 7th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

2/7/05

Re: Willow/Springs Gulch EIR

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

**These are my thoughts regarding the Willow/Springs Area & the proposed Sports Park.**

### **Willow Springs is a Very Special Place, a Treasured Secret Undiscovered.**

Description: Willow Springs is like a secret valley. When you are in the valley you can't see any streets or cars. It is like being back in time in a beautiful valley with steep hills that feel like mountains. When we were there after rains there was a creek-like stream bed, which was the site of the original spring. There is also a large "holding area of water" cemented in with cat tails growing in it.

It would be a tragedy to tear down the mountains and fill in the valley! There is no place that I know of in Long Beach that has these exciting features in elevation. When inside the valley, it truly feels like being away from the city, back in time with "mountains" or steep, steep high hills all around. We are hungry for that type of experience in Long Beach.

It is actually the second highest point in the City of Long Beach. (Signal Hill has the rest on the famous Signal Hill.) From the highest point in Willow Springs you can see all of Long Beach, Palos Verdes, the Ocean, the mountains and the cemetery. It is actually very inspiring. There is an exceptionally old, exceptionally beautiful tree (Elm I believe) at the highest point that is a place for deep reflection and peace. - A great place to see the wonderful view.

The natural remnants of the spring-creek could be restored. There are beautiful remnants of wetlands with cat tails and other native plants, birds and wild life which is a treasure for children, adults and native species alike. And of course the old big trees should be preserved for the treasures they are..

### **Potential Possibility Visions that come to my mind for use of this land Willow Springs:**

Biology Teaching Area  
Demonstration-Teaching Area for Energy Resources: Solar, Hydro, Wind Mill, along with a Working Oil Well.  
Vintage 1920 cars  
Indian Village, (There are "natural reasons" that Indians used this area, with its natural spring, view etc.)  
Perhaps a food area that features at least some natural organic healthy food & even classic American Indian food, such as Indian Fry Bread.  
Organic Garden  
City Mulching Project  
Let Willow Springs go back into nature.

### **More Possibility Thinking:**

Petting Zoo  
Mules, Donkeys or Ponies for a Hillsides & Valley Tour.  
Butterfly Area - Like at the Zoo, where people can enter a butterfly or tiny hummingbird world.  
Duck Pond incorporating the spring and restored natural water features.

\*\* Visit Madrona Marsh in Torrance at Torrance & Madrona Ave to get ideas.

\*\* My favorite memories as a child were playing in Coyote Creek, among to cattails, before it was cemented in and catching pollywogs in a paper cup, watching them turn into frogs, seeing tiny little fishes, beautiful dragon flies, insects that skated on water, etc.. **We are so hungry for these kinds of experiences in today's unpeaceful world that is so cut off from nature.**

There could also be Fun for All! "Fun Active Activities" such as: Hay stacks to move around and make forts with, Swinging on a rope from a tree, Card Board Slides down the hills, Laser Tag, Sawdust jump.

There could also be some water feature development and possibly a swimming pool or wading pool-pond.

There could be some fields for playing baseball etc., with a mixed use balance that preserves the exciting and peaceful, natural wild beauty of Willow Springs.

Again, why tear down the mountains & fill in the valleys at great expense when that topography is already a treasure? It was suggested that perhaps the Sports Park could better be put on the North West side of town, by the river, where it is already flat with plenty of potential parking, where freeway access is easy etc..

Thank you,

Summer Hansen,



Founder: Be Community Friendly! - Children's Day

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*PS. I also do not like and am opposed to the idea of alcohol being sold or drank in a city park, even if it is a sports park. It's very inappropriate, probably worse than cigarettes being sold and smoked in parks.*

In closing: We have ..... all numerous sports recreational areas in Long Beach, in fact in many ways we are the envy of the nation when it comes to recreation. I remember our Recreation Department won a major award in the recent past. We can develop a Sports Park in another undeveloped area of our city on the North or Westside as suggested by many people.

We have far too little nature experiences in Long Beach where everything is sooo built up. Nature and peace are what people of all ages are missing. People NEED PEACE & NATURAL BEAUTY. It contributes greatly to their health physically, mentally and spiritually. I strongly believe Willow Springs with its precious wonderful valley, and with its beautiful vistas and the treasure of its wild life and fauna is a real hidden treasure for Long Beach. I think we should use it as a beautiful park for the aforementioned purposes.

## **BE COMMUNITY FRIENDLY! CHILDREN'S DAY USA**

### **O-1-1**

The comment characterizes the project site as "Willow Springs" and provides personal observations of its natural and aesthetic qualities. In particular, the site is characterized as providing a refuge from the urban environment given its size, topography, vegetation, and other qualities. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **O-1-2**

The comment offers an opinion that the site should not be graded and the varied elevations of the site should be preserved. Potential impacts of the Proposed Project to views from the site are addressed in Section 4.10, Aesthetics of the Draft EIR. Opinions expressed regarding preservation of the site will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **O-1-3**

The comment requests that the "natural remnants of the spring-creek" be restored. The existing conditions on site are the result of significant ground disturbance and earth movement over many decades. The landforms created by these highly disturbed conditions are not unlike the historic landform conditions; however, there is no evidence of "natural remnants of the spring-creek" on-site.

Opinions expressed regarding the preservation of the site will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers.

As detailed in the Draft EIR Section 4.3, pages 4.3-1 through 4.3-7, imported soils placed on site sometime between about 1963 and 1990 filled the existing natural drainage course. A reservoir was constructed in 1909 in the bottom of the drainage course that crossed the central portion of the site. The bottom and walls of the excavated basin were lined with concrete to minimize uncontrolled outflow. The reservoir remained in service for about 20 years and was abandoned for use by the City Water Department around 1928. The reservoir structure was ultimately converted to a detention basin that is currently part of the regional storm water facilities. Wetlands on the project site are associated with the concrete-lined drainage channel and retention basin, not natural remnants of the spring-creek. As stated in the Draft EIR, the on-site wetlands were created as the result of an ill-maintained County of Los Angeles detention structure that allowed water to pond rather than drain as intended.

### **O-1-4**

A number of possible alternative uses of the project site are offered by the commentor. Please refer to Response to Comment O-1-2. Alternatives to the Proposed Project are addressed in Chapter 5.0 of the Draft EIR. This opinion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the Proposed Project.



**O-1-5**

The comment offers an opinion that the site should not be graded and the varied elevations of the site should be preserved. Potential impacts by the Proposed Project to views from the site are addressed in Section 4.10 of the Draft EIR, Aesthetics. The comment also suggests that the Sports Park be located in another area of the City. Alternatives to the Proposed Project are addressed in Chapter 5.0 of the Draft EIR. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

**O-1-6**

This comment letter opposes the sale of alcohol at the proposed Sports Park. This comment pertains to the discretionary actions associated with the Proposed Project, including a request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the sale of alcohol to be consumed on site.

The commentor does not identify a specific topic in the Draft EIR relative to the concern about alcohol sales. This opinion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the Proposed Project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

**O-1-7**

The comment expresses an opinion that the need for nature experiences is greater than the need for sports facilities. This comment also suggests that the proposed Sports Park be developed on the north or west sides of the City. Alternative locations for the Sports Park were evaluated in Chapter 5.0 of the Draft EIR. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

**O-1-8**

The comment expresses an opinion about the availability and value of nature experiences in the City. This comment will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.